1	2	3	4	5
3.	Mining of Iron Ore in Bellary Reserve Forest of Kal-yanadurg Range in Anantapur Division in favour of M/s Obulapuram Mining.	68.5	16.05.2007	08.01.2007

Use of Bt. seeds

†1893. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) names of the agri products for which Government is planning to introduce the use of Bt. seeds after the crisis created by Bt. seed of cotton;

(b) the name of the institute and country by which this Bt. seed is proposed to be provided;

(c) whether all tests on these Bt. seeds and the study of their toxic effects have been conducted;

(d) whether former Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(e) whether Government would ban Bt. seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2009 has recommended to the Government that Bt brinjal is safe for environmental release, based on the scientific facts/data generated during 2002-2009 and findings of two Expert Committees. However, the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from the various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists. The Ministry has invited Comments from all stakeholders on the report of the Expert Committee for holding national consultations before taking a final view on commercialization of Bt brinjal.

(b) If approved, Bt brinjal seeds would be provided by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India; University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India; and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

(c) Yes, Bt brinjal event EE-1 has been developed in compliance with the prevailing regulatory procedures and biosafety guidelines which conform to the international norms. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

food and feed safety assessment studies carried out include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies, and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. The environmental safety assessment studies have been carried out on pollen escape out — crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene and baseline susceptibility studies.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has received a copy of the letter of Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed to the Prime Minister concerning impact of Genetically Modified (GM) food crops on human health. The Government of India is following a policy of case by case approval of GM crops. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only where there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product. The Government is of the view that scientific assessment and not moratorium is the answer to development. Therefore, there is no proposal to ban Bt seeds.

Setting up of cold storage in Tamil Nadu

1894. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps were taken by Government to set up cold storages in Tamil Nadu to store vegetables and fruits during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the Eleventh Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy poultry, etc. Under this scheme, MFPI has approved 10 cold chain project during 2008-09 in the country out of that one cold chain project has been approved in Tamil Nadu.

Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for